



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARIZONA WINS \$5 MILLION ‘WIRED’ GRANT FROM FEDS
Awards to be used for Workforce Innovation in Southern Arizona

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today announced Arizona will receive a \$5 million workforce development grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to be used to help southern Arizona communities advance their economic development efforts. The Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Grant program will provide a total of \$65 million in funds to 13 self-identified areas nationwide as part of this phase of awards, each of which will receive the grants over a three-year period.

The winning region includes Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz and Yuma Counties, which will work together through an entity known as “Innovation Frontier Arizona.” The group’s goal is to bridge a workforce skills gap through career-ladder training and various education programs (at K-12 and higher education levels) that will help workers learn skills needed for better-paying technology- and knowledge-driven jobs, and eventually increase the average salary of local wage-earners.

“This is excellent news for Arizona,” said Governor Napolitano. “Our communities statewide are working diligently to move ahead in the new economy, and this WIRED grant will be a huge benefit to the region. These counties are to be congratulated for their foresight.”

The WIRED grant will be supplemented by private and government grants, as well as local funding sources from various city, county and state programs. The Arizona partnership includes various entities from state, local and county government, private business and economic development, school districts, the universities and community colleges.

More on the WIRED grant program is available at www.doleta.gov/wired/. An executive summary on Innovation Frontier Arizona’s proposal is attached.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.